

Brief summary of major, relevant laws and regulations.

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| CERCLA (Superfund) = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act | Requires community relation's components during the assessment of hazardous substances at inactive waste sites. Key communication pieces include a community relation's plan, public access to the complete administrative record, an information repository, and advertisement of public involvement opportunities. Health and ecological impact may be determined requiring worker and public notification. Emergency removal actions may be required. |
| EPCRA = Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act | Establishes public notification procedures including a requirement that organizations generating hazardous chemicals produce an annual list of the chemicals stored. These organizations must also report any accidental release of hazardous chemicals. |
| EO12898 = Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice in Minority Populations | Requires federal agencies, departments, and often their contractors to consider any potentially disproportionate human health or environmental risks their activities, policies, or programs may pose to minority or low-income populations. |
| EO13045 = Executive Order 13045, Reduce Environmental Health and Safety Risks to Children | Similar to EO12898, but addresses potential health and safety risks to children. The Order does not require risk communication per se. |
| NRDA = Natural Resource Damage Assessment | Is the process of assessing environmental damage caused by releases of hazardous substances. Often an ARAR of CERCLA, this process determines the condition of the effected area that is public property. |
| NEPA = National Environmental Policy Act | Mandates environmental impact statements (EI) and other environmental assessments. Key communications pieces for an EI include: notice of intent, scoping meetings, publication of draft EI, public comment meeting, publication of final EI and the record of decision. |
| OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Act | Ensures that "no employee will suffer material impairment of health or functional capacity" as a result of their work. An example is the requirement of employers to explain chemical and physical risks in the work environment, often presented in the form of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). |
| RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act | Establishes regulatory standards for the generation, transportation, storage, treatment, and disposal of hazardous waste. The Act discusses how the public can take non-compliant organizations to court. |